

IN THE CLAIMS

In accordance with Rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121, please amend the claims in accordance with the following LISTING OF CLAIMS wherein the amended claims are indicated as "original", "currently amended", "cancelled", "withdrawn", "new" "previously presented", or "not entered" as the case may be. In accordance with the Rules, the text of cancelled and not entered claims is not presented.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap for use on a baton having a handle portion adapted to be grasped in a user's hand and defining a proximal end and an opposite distal end, the leverage end cap[,] comprising:

a unitary body defining a longitudinal axis and having a an enlarged knob end;

~~a tapered neck portion, the neck portion defining a finger hold for ease in grasping; and~~

said body having an opposite end adapted means for attachment of attaching the leveraged cap to the baton at the proximal end of the baton in substantially axial alignment therewith, and

said body further having a reduced diameter tapered neck portion intermediate and contiguous to said knob and attaching ends and positioned for contact with a configured and sized to receive the little finger of the user's hand in generally wrapped relation during use[,] such that the baton can ~~thereafter~~ be firmly be held ~~near~~ adjacent the proximal end of the baton with a steadfast grip.

2. (Currently amended) The leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap of claim 1, wherein the knob is generally hemispheric in shape.

3. (Currently amended) The leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap of claim 2, wherein the generally hemispheric knob ~~comprises a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being~~ defines a generally flattened exposed end surface.

4. (Currently amended) The leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap of claim 3, wherein ~~a~~ the distal end of the knob defines the tapered neck portion.

5. (Currently amended) The leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap of claim 1, wherein ~~the means for attachment is~~ said opposite end of said body includes a generally cylindrical segment having an internal threadings for cooperative engagement with a baton having an externally threaded proximal end segment.

6. (Currently amended) The leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap of claim 5, wherein the cylindrical segment and ~~end knob~~ are formed ~~together~~ integral with the tapered neck.

7. (Currently amended) The leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap of claim 1, wherein the enlarged knob end defines a means for holding a decorative element.

8. (Currently amended) A leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap for use on a an expandable baton having an elongated handle and at least one internal telescoping section extendable from a distal end of the handle, the end cap, comprising:

a unitary body having an enlarged knob defining a proximal end of the end cap;

a tapered neck portion, the neck portion defining a finger hold for ease in grasping; and

said body having a threaded cylindrical segment distal end of a smaller external diameter diameter than said knob and configured to releasably attach the leveraged end cap to the baton handle at a threaded proximal end of the baton handle and positioned for contact with a user's hand during use, and

said body having an annular tapered neck portion disposed between and contiguous to said knob and said cylindrical segment distal end, said neck portion being sized to receive the little finger of a user's hand in wrapped relation about said neck portion so that the little finger is captured between said knob and cylindrical segment distal end such that the baton can thereafter be held firmly near adjacent the proximal end of the baton with a steadfast grip.

9. (Currently amended) The leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap of claim 8, wherein the knob is generally hemispheric in shape.

10. (Currently amended) The leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap of claim 9, wherein the generally hemispheric knob defines ~~comprises~~ a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being generally flattened.

11. (Currently amended) The leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap of claim 10, wherein the distal end of the knob defines the tapered neck portion.

12. (Currently amended) The leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap of claim 8, wherein the cylindrical segment has an internal threads surface for cooperative engagement with a baton handle having an externally threaded proximal end segment.

13. (Currently amended) The leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap of claim 12, wherein the cylindrical segment and ~~end~~ knob are formed ~~together~~ integral with the tapered neck portion.

14. (Currently amended) The leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap of claim 8, wherein the knob defines a means for holding a decorative element.

15. (Currently amended) A method of enhancing the use of ~~using~~ a baton having an elongated hand-graspable handle defining a proximal end and a distal end, said method including the steps of:

providing a leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap, ~~the baton cap~~ having a unitary body defining an enlarged proximal end knob, a generally hour-glass shaped annular neck portion contiguous to said end knob, and a distal end contiguous to said neck portion and defining means for attachment to a the proximal end of the baton handle;

attaching the leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap ~~on to~~ to the proximal end of the baton so that the end cap is generally axially aligned with the baton;

grasping the baton such that the little, or pinky, finger of the user's baton-holding hand is received in and wraps about ~~rests on~~ the neck portion of the leveraged baton cap; with the remaining fingers of the hand wrapping about the baton on or adjacent the end cap; and

maintaining said grasp throughout use of the baton.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, including the step of providing cooperative threadings within the leveraged ~~baton~~ end cap and on the proximal end of the baton such that the baton and end cap ~~are~~ can be releasably and rotatably connected.

17. (Canceled)

18. (New) A leveraging end cap for use with an expandable baton having a generally tubular handle section defining a proximal end and an opposite distal end, the proximal end having a peripheral thread thereon adapted to receive an end cap in mounted relation thereon;

said leveraging end cap including a unitary body having a first end adapted for releasable threaded engagement with the peripheral thread on the proximal end of the baton handle section so that the leveraging end cap is substantially axially aligned with the baton handle, said leveraging end cap having an enlarged knob second end and defining a circumferential reduced diameter curvilinear surface between and contiguous to said first and second ends of said leveraging end cap, said curvilinear surface being sized to establish a finger grip to receive only the small finger of a user's hand in wrapped relation thereon when the proximal end of the baton handle is grasp in the user's hand, said leveraging end cap being operative to create a greater effective impact force for the baton when grasp by the user's hand than obtained when the tubular handle is grasp generally midlength thereof.

19. (New) A leveraging end cap as defined in Claim 18 wherein the knob end of the end cap is sized to engage the lateral outermost surface of the user's little finger when wrapped about the

circumference curvilinear surface so as to prevent axial slippage of the baton from the user's hand during use.